

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00031 090512Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 EB-07 OES-06 AID-05 PC-01 HUD-01 EUR-12 INT-05  
COME-00 /094 W

-----090516Z 116299 /10

R 090334Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2816

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 0031

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BGEN PDEV MU  
SUBJECT: CIVILIZATION COMING TO MASIRAH

REF: 76 MUSCAT 1619

1. RECENT TRIP BY ECONOFF AND ACTING PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR TO MASIRAH CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT MISERABLE LIVING CONDITIONS OF MASIRAH'S 3,500 INHABITANTS AND VIRTUALLY TOTAL LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE OUTSIDE THE AIR BASE MAY BE CHANGING. AT PRESENT, EVERYTHING MUST BE IMPORTED AT GREAT EXPENSE FROM MUSCAT, MOSTLY USING INFREQUENT SOAF FLIGHTS. LOCAL POPULATION CONCENTRATED AT NORTH END OF ISLAND LIVES IN SHACKS CONSTRUCTED OF PLYWOOD AND CORRUGATED METAL. TOTAL LACK OF GROUNDWATER HAS PREVENTED DEVELOPMENT OF EVEN SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE, MUCH LESS NATURAL VEGETATION, GIVING MASIRAH A BARREN AND LUNAR APPEARANCE. HOWEVER, AIR COMMUNICATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE FREQUENT AFTER APRIL 1977, AND THERE IS ALREADY A MODEST INFLOW OF NEW BUSINESS ONTO THE ISLAND.

2. SMALL DESALTING PLANT BUILT BY MOTHECAT AND OPERATED BY GLOBAL CHEMICAL SYSTEMS (REFTEL) IS SHUT DOWN AT PRESENT DUE TO LACK OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR WATER. PLANT CAN PRODUCE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00031 090512Z

UP TO 120,000 GALLONS OF FRESH WATER A DAY, BUT OFFTAKE HAD BEEN LIMITED TO 8-10,000 GALLONS PUMPED INTO ISLAND'S SINGLE WATER TRUCK, WHILE REST OF WATER WAS DISCHARGED ON INTO THE SEA. ACCORDING TO AMCIT MANAGER DONALD PROUD, DESALTING PLANT WILL REMAIN SHUT DOWN FOR A FEW WEEKS UNTIL NEW HOSPITAL OPENS, BUT PLANT WILL NOT BE FULLY UTILIZED UNTIL ADEQUATE PIPING NETWORK IS CONSTRUCTED. PROUD PLANS TO PLACE AN AMCIT FULLTIME ON

MASIRAH TO SUPERVISE 22 FILIPINO TECHNICIANS CURRENTLY  
RUNNING THE PLANT.

3. PRIMARY SCHOOL IS ALREADY IN OPERATION, AND NEW 100-BED  
HEALTH CENTER SHOULD OPEN IN A FEW MONTHS. MAIN DELAY IN  
OPENING OF HEALTH CENTER HAS BEEN DELAY IN RECRUITING 6 DOCTORS  
AND 23 NURSES TO MAN THE FACILITY. PROUD STATED THAT MINISTRY  
OF HEALTH HAS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CONTRACT FOR GLOBAL CHEMICAL  
TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN HOSPITAL, WHICH WOULD BRING AT LEAST  
ONE MORE AMCIT FULL TIME ON THE ISLAND.

4. THE OMANGOV IS PLANNING TO REPLACE THE PRESENT SHANTY-  
TOWN AT THE NORTH END OF THE ISLAND WITH 1,000 GOVERNMENT-  
FUNDED DWELLINGS. SIR WILLIAM HALCROW (UK) HAS COMPLETED  
FEASIBILITY STUDY, BUT SHORTAGE OF FUNDS HAS DELAYED CHOICE  
OF CONTRACTOR. NONETHELESS, LOCAL POPULATION IS OPTIMISTIC  
THAT ARRIVAL OF SOAF WILL BRING IN MORE MONEY AND HELP FUND A  
FEW RETAIL SHOPS FOR CONSUMER GOODS WHICH ARE NOW NONEXISTENT.  
NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN ESTABLISHED A BRANCH ON MASIRAH IN NOV-  
EMBER 1976, AND OTHER BANKS MAY FOLLOW.

5. LONG-TERM POTENTIAL FOR MASIRAH MAY BE GOOD IF LOCAL  
RESOURCES ARE FULLY DEVELOPED. THE WATERS AROUND MASIRAH  
ARE VERY RICH IN FISH, AND MASIRAH COULD BECOME A SIGNIFICANT  
REGIONAL FISH PROCESSING CENTER. A WEST GERMAN SURVEY  
TEAM HAS ALREADY DISCOVERED SMALL AMOUNTS OF COPPER IN THE  
MOUNTAINS ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND, AND MUCH  
GREATER DEPOSITS MAY BE PRESENT. OMAN'S DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE IS EXPLORING THE GROWING OF VEGETABLES ON MASIRAH  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00031 090512Z

(WHICH SEEMS A FUTILE EFFORT TO US). EVEN MASIRAH AS A RECREATION  
SPOT IS POSSIBLE: THE MILD SUMMER CLIMATE DUE TO THE SOUTHWEST  
MONSOON HAS CAUSED SOME TO SPECULATE OVER MASIRAH'S FUTURE  
TOURIST POTENTIAL.  
WOLLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HOUSING, LIVING CONDITIONS, DESALINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 09-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MUSCAT00031  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770008-0452  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MUSCAT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770168/aaaachnp.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e200b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MUSCAT 1619  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3636576  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVILIZATION COMING TO MASIRAH  
**TAGS:** BGEN, PDEV, MU, GLOBAL CHEMICAL SYSTEMS INC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e200b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009